

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-3. Please amend Claims 4-6 and 11, as indicated below, wherein strikethrough indicates deleted text while underlining indicates added text. The following listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A system according to claim 2,~~ A system for monitoring the dispensing of a paste from a reservoir in response to the application of pressure on said paste from a piston, comprising:
a position transducer for generating a displacement signal representative of the position of said piston; and
analysis means responsive to said displacement signal for detecting the rate of displacement of said piston, in which said analysis means compares said rate of displacement with at least one reference rate and said analysis means detects whether said rate of displacement has exceeded said at least one reference rate for a time greater than a threshold time limit.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A system according to claim 2,~~ A system for monitoring the dispensing of a paste from a reservoir in response to the application of pressure on said paste from a piston, comprising:

a position transducer for generating a displacement signal representative of the position of said piston; and

analysis means responsive to said displacement signal for detecting the rate of displacement of said piston, in which said analysis means compares said rate of displacement with at least one reference rate and said analysis means detects whether said rate of displacement has exceeded said at least one reference rate for a time less than a spike time limit.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A system according to claim 1,~~ A system for monitoring the dispensing of a paste from a reservoir in response to the application of pressure on said paste from a piston, comprising:

a position transducer for generating a displacement signal representative of the position of said piston; and

analysis means responsive to said displacement signal for detecting the rate of displacement of said piston, in which said analysis means comprises a linear variable differential transformer having a core that translates in accordance with said piston.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6, in which said analysis means compares said rate of displacement with at least one reference rate.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7, in which said analysis means compares said rate of displacement with an upper reference rate limit and with a lower reference rate limit.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 7, in which said analysis means detects whether said rate of displacement has exceeded said at least one reference rate for a time greater than a threshold time limit.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 7, in which said analysis means detects whether said rate of displacement has exceeded said at least one reference rate for a time less than a spike time limit.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring the dispensing of a paste from a reservoir in response to the application of pressure on said paste from a piston, comprising: a position transducer for generating a displacement signal representative of the position of said piston; and
analysis means responsive to said displacement signal for measuring a compression signal comprising the difference in said displacement signal when a reference pressure is applied and when said reference pressure is released.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 11, further comprising means for applying an input pressure signal to said piston when flow of said paste is blocked and means for measuring a compression signal responsive to said input pressure signal.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, in which said input pressure signal is a square wave.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 11, in which said input pressure signal is the termination of pressure at the end of an application sequence.
15. (Original) A system according to claim 11, in which said analysis means compares said compression signal with a constant reference.
16. (Original) A system according to claim 11, in which said analysis means compares said compression signal with a variable reference that varies in proportion to said position of said piston.
17. (Original) A system according to claim 11, further comprising means for applying an input pressure signal to said piston when flow of said paste is blocked and means for measuring a compression signal responsive to said input pressure signal.
18. (Original) A system according to claim 11, in which said analysis means comprises a linear variable differential transformer having a core that translates in accordance with said piston.
19. (Original) A system according to claim 18, in which said input pressure signal is the termination of pressure at the end of an application sequence.
20. (Original) A system according to claim 18, in which said analysis means compares said compression signal with a constant reference.